

Free Chlorination Fact Sheet

The following information may be helpful for answering the most frequently asked questions regarding the free chlorination of the water distribution system.

What is Free Chlorination?

Free chlorination is a **temporary** process that distributes free chlorine in place of combined chlorine (chloramines) throughout the water distribution system as part of the annual distribution system maintenance.

Free chlorination is a common practice used by water producers using the chloramine treatment method. It is typically performed once or twice per year over a four to five week time period.

What is Free Chlorine?

Free chlorine is the use of chlorine only which is a stronger disinfectant than chloramine.

What is Chloramine?

Chloramine is disinfectant used in drinking water. It is made up of chlorine and ammonia.

Is chlorine in drinking water safe?

Yes. A small amount of chlorine is added to disinfect the drinking water in accordance with United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations. The USEPA requires treated tap water to contain a detectable level of chlorine in the distribution system for ongoing disinfection.

Will I notice a change in my water during free chlorination?

Some people may notice a change in the taste or odor during this time but adverse health effects are not expected.

What can I do to improve the taste / smell in my water?

We suggest storing water in an open pitcher and placing it in your refrigerator. The chlorine will naturally dissipate from the water, and will become less noticeable. Also, colder water tastes better.

Do I have to take special precautions removing free chlorine from fish aquariums?

Some aquatic and marine animal species are sensitive to both free chlorine and chloramines. Persons maintaining aquariums with any sensitive species are encourage to contact their pet supply stores regarding dechlorinating the water.

Do dialysis facilities need to take special precautions during free chlorine?

Yes. Questions regarding kidney dialysis should be directed to the customer's doctor or dialysis specialist.

I notice the hydrant on my street flowing, is this part of the process?

Flushing fire hydrant is a routine part of the free chlorination process. This will occur in various parts of the Town in order to distribute free chlorinated water into all parts of the water distribution system. As a result, increased flushing may be observed during this time.